

taneous movement. He makes numerous criticisms of the methods employed by Christiani.—*DuBois' Arch.*, 1884, 4 and 5 Heft.

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THE PARALYTIC ACTION OF STRYCHNIA.—Herr Paul Bongers has made a series of experiments concerning the relation of strychnia to the motor nerves. He found, as many other observers did, that it paralyzed the motor nerves by a direct action on them and by the exhaustion consequent to the convulsive movements.—*DuBois' Arch.*, 1884, 4 and 5 Heft.

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THE RESPIRATION ON A HIBERNATING HEDGEHOG.—Herr Paul Bongers has made a series of experiments upon this subject. He compared the breathing of chloralized hedgehogs with that of hibernating ones. He found that the state of narcosis differed from that of hibernation, as in the former it was not periodical but rhythmic, whilst in the latter it was periodical.—*DuBois' Arch.*, 1884, 4 and 5 Heft.

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THE ACTION OF ERGOTIN, ERGOTININ, AND SCLEROTINIC ACID UPON THE BLOOD-PRESSURE, UTERINE MOVEMENTS, AND BLEEDING.—Herr Max Marckwald has made a series of experiments with these drugs. He used rabbits. It was discovered that the uterine contractions were independent of changes in the blood-pressure. His results were as follows :

1. Ergotinin is not to be used either as a hæmostatic or an oxytocic.
2. Dialyzed ergotin and sclerotic acid are able to cause contraction of the uterus and arrest of hemorrhage from this organ.
3. Sclerotic acid caused a depression of the arterial tension, and at the same time a general hæmostatic action. He confirms the view of Nikitin, that sclerotic acid is chiefly the active principle of ergot. Sclerotic acid is used in smaller doses than ergotin, but the former or its salts cannot be used hypodermically; here dialyzed ergotin must be employed. Generally the dose for man is too small.

For uterine fibroids the single dose should be at least 5 grammes of pure ergotin, whilst as a hæmostatic 1 to 2 grammes should be given at a dose. *DuBois' Arch.*, 1884, 4 and 5 Heft.

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THE INNERVATION OF THE PYLORUS.—Dr. Oser has made a number of experiments upon dogs. His results are as follows :

1. By divided vagi and splanchnics, as well as by the uninjured nerves, the pylorus shows contraction of different intensity and irregularity.
2. Irritation of the vagi in the neck constantly calls out a contraction of the pylorus; the more intense the irritation, the greater the contraction.
3. Irritation of the splanchnics in the thorax depresses the spontaneous contractions of the pylorus. The action of the splanchnics is gradually generated, and reaches its

maximum between the first and second minute after the beginning of the irritation. 4. During simultaneous irritation of the vagi in the neck and the splanchnics in the thorax, the inhibition of the latter causes only a diminution of the contraction of the pylorus. Maximal irritations of the splanchnics cannot completely paralyze weak irritations of the vagus. During the maximum of irritation of the splanchnic, the period of absolute quiet, irritation of the vagus is either without effect or causes only a scarcely noticeable elevation. 5. Irritation of the left splanchnic has a stronger action than that of the right.—*Centralblatt für die medicinischen Wissenschaften*, 1884, No. 26.

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THYROID GLAND.—Schiff has made a series of experiments upon the lower animals. In the majority of the animals operated upon, he found that after a week or two a peculiar soporific state ensued, ending in death. On post-mortem no cause was discoverable. His results were as follows :

1. The mere laying bare of the thyroid gland, the section of the recurrent nerve in the neighborhood, the removal of nerve-branches passing to the gland from the recurrent nerve, did none of them occasion the peculiar symptoms following the removal of the gland itself.

2. It was also found that the nerve-branches, which in the dog accompany the chief arteries of the gland, and which are branches of the superior laryngeal nerve, might be cut without producing the peculiar symptoms. He noted, after the removal of the thyroid, well-marked fibrillary muscular contraction under the skin. At later periods convulsive movements of the limbs. There was increased irritability of the phrenic. A feeling of tickling over the skin in many animals. The general sensibility of the skin of the limbs became gradually lost from the periphery toward the centre. Very low blood-pressure was met with toward the end. Schiff believes that the gland has an intimate connection with the nutrition of the central nervous system.—*Edinburgh Clinical Journal*, July 19, 1884.

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THE PATH OF THE FIBRES NARROWING THE PUPIL.—Dr. Bechterew has made several observations upon this subject. His results are as follows :

1. Reflex-fibres narrowing the pupil are not contained either in the optic tract, or in their central ends in the corpora geniculata and corpora quadrigemina of the higher animals, or in the corpora bigemina of birds.

2. Those fibres have their beginning in the retina of the eye, and run in the optic nerves and behind the chiasm, enter the central gray matter in the cavity of the third ventricle, and join the nuclei of the oculomotor nerves, from which they return to the periphery in the trunk of the oculomotors.

3. During their whole course in the central gray matter the pupil-contracting fibres remain without decussation.